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Letter dated 30 November 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform the members of the Security Council that the authorities of the Central African Republic have advised my Representative that they would like the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) to continue to assist them in their efforts towards building lasting peace, following the restoration of constitutional order in their country.

President François Bozizé has stressed the need for greater involvement on the part of the international community in view of the major post-election challenges facing the Central African Republic, while acknowledging that the primary responsibility for improving the population's living conditions rests with his Government. It should be noted that President Bozizé recently suspended three Government Ministers suspected of corrupt practices, after a census was conducted to determine the number of civil servants and State officials in active service.

Considering that the prospects for lasting stability in the Central African Republic are more encouraging than ever, I recommend that the mandate of BONUCA be extended from 1 January to 31 December 2006. For the first time since the establishment of BONUCA, conditions conducive to peacebuilding are in place. The renewal of the mandate of BONUCA would enable it to help the Central African Republic in its efforts to build on the success of its recent elections. Support from BONUCA, particularly in the areas of strengthening political dialogue and promoting the rule of law, will help to create a climate conducive to reconstruction and development. It will also be essential for the pursuit of the reforms that the Government intends to undertake.

The upsurge in cross-border banditry and the proliferation of weapons in the subregion have increased insecurity in the Central African Republic and are hindering its economic recovery. The Central African authorities, in concertation with the neighbouring countries, have requested BONUCA and my Representative to serve as facilitators in their search for a common solution to these threats, considering that no significant progress can be achieved in the political, social and economic areas unless security is restored.

BONUCA carries out these new subregional responsibilities in addition to the activities it has been undertaking to assess the impact of developments in neighbouring countries on the Central African Republic, and vice versa (see S/PRST/2004/39). BONUCA will continue to work closely with subregional

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partners, including the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Economic Community of Central African States and the CEMAC Multinational Force.

In view of these additional responsibilities and the encouraging developments occurred recently, I intend to raise the rank of my Representative in the Central African Republic to that of Special Representative, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, to enable him to continue to provide United Nations support to the efforts of the Central African Republic and the neighbouring countries towards building lasting stability.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**